

GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Department of Commerce
Indian Country Economic Development

The CSKT want to express appreciation for the State Tribal Economic Development Commission (STED), state staff, and the role that Tribal representatives play on the commission.

The Tribes have benefited greatly from the Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) grants and hope that the new Administration will continue to invest in Indian Country, honoring the first Americans and encouraging healthy local Indian economies.

Here is a summary of our accomplishments.

The 2009 fiscal year funds were used by the Economic Development Department to fund land appraisals for several tribal commercial properties. This created an increase in CSKT revenue from tribal land leases. The Economic Development Department also used these funds to produce feasibility studies on the potential for job creation and CSKT revenue generation. Some examples of these feasibility studies included the potential purchase of the Plum Creek Geenhouse and Seed Orchard, redevelopment of the Hot Springs Bathhouse, and development of a small-scale post and pole facility utilizing equipment from Flathead Sticker and Lath.

The 2010 fiscal year funds were used by both Tribal Forestry and the Tribal Lands Department. Tribal Forestry produced a feasibility study and business plan to explore the economic potential of the small logs and chips that remain from timber sales and aren't usable as saw logs and of the sunken logs in Flathead Lake. The Tribal Lands Department used funds from the 2010 fiscal year to train and fund a new business lease technician.

The 2011 fiscal year funds were used by the Economic Development Department to create a small grant fund to assist tribal member-owned businesses. Ten tribal member businesses received small grants of \$600 to \$7,000 each. All of these businesses provided a 100% match, are still in operation, and are collectively providing about 23 jobs on the Flathead Reservation. The 2011 fiscal year funds were also used to set up commercial lots. National Environmental Policy Act compliance documents and cost projections have been completed for three commercial lots in Pablo, five lots in Arlee, and several more are in progress for sites in Polson, Pablo, and St. Ignatius.

The 2012 fiscal year funds are currently being used to provide nine grants of \$7,000 each to tribal member-owned businesses. These businesses are different from the ones receiving grants under the 2011 fiscal year funds. These new grant recipient businesses are providing approximately 28 jobs on the Flathead Reservation.

For the 2013 fiscal year, the Tribes are requesting funding in order to create a 2017 STEDC grant fund. This grant fund will be for tribal member businesses and will be matched by a local development organization. The remainder of the requested funding will be set aside for another small business grant fund for tribal members.